

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bidirectional latch assembly, comprising:
 - a casing configured with a seating groove, wherein the seating groove includes a passage hole;
 - a latch inserted into the passage hole having one surface movably seated on a seating surface supported in the seating groove, wherein the latch comprises a frame configured with a pair of opposing latching holes, and a pair of catching protrusions on lateral edges of the frame; and
 - a keeper configured to selectively engage with either one of the pair of latching holes.
2. The latch assembly of claim 1, comprising a pressure member in the seating groove configured with the seating surface on one side thereof, wherein resilient members are coupled to both lateral ends of the pressure member and configured to urge the seating surface toward the latch.
3. The latch assembly of claim 1, comprising a latching protrusion configured to engage with either one of the latching holes coupled to an upper portion of the passage hole of the casing.
4. The latch assembly of claim 3, wherein the latching protrusion has corresponding dimensions smaller than that of each latching hole of the latch.

5. The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein front and rear ends of an upper surface of the passage hole of the casing are configured to have inclined surfaces, respectively.

6. The latch assembly of claim 5, wherein the catching protrusion of the latch is adjacent one of the inclined surfaces of the casing when the latch is fixed.

7. The latch assembly of claim 5, wherein the inclined surfaces at the ends of the upper surface of the passage hole have the same angle of inclination as the catching protrusion of the latch.

8. The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein inclined surfaces symmetric with each other are formed at each of both ends of the frame of the latch.

9. The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein the keeper comprises:
a catching step configured to protrude vertically from one side of the keeper with an inclined surface at an upper portion thereof;
a press portion configured to protrude horizontally from the other side of the keeper; and
a resilient member coupled to the catching step and configured to urge the catching step toward the press portion.

10. The latch assembly of claim 9, comprising a pressure member in the seating groove configured with the seating surface on one side thereof, wherein resilient members are coupled to both lateral ends of the pressure member and configured to urge the seating surface toward the latch, and the resilient members coupled to the pressure member exert resilient forces larger than that of the resilient member coupled to the catching step.

11. The latch assembly of claim 9, wherein inclined surfaces symmetric with each other are formed at each of both ends of the frame of the latch, and the inclined surfaces at the both ends of the frame have an angle of inclination corresponding to the inclined surface of the catching step.

12. The latch assembly of claim 1, wherein a portion of the latch between the pair of the latching holes has a thickness smaller than the lateral edges of the frame.

13. An electronic apparatus, comprising:
a first body configured with a passage hole extending through one side portion;
a latch mounted in the passage hole of the first body having a frame with a pair of engagement protrusions on opposite sides;
a second body rotatably coupled to the first body and having a recess on one surface thereof; and
an engagement catch mounted in the recess of the second body.

14. The electronic apparatus of claim 13, wherein a first engagement protrusion of the pair of engagement protrusions extends outside a first side of the first body in a first position of the latch in the passage hole, and wherein a second engagement protrusion of the pair of engagement protrusions extends outside a second side of the first body in a second position of the latch in the passage hole.

15. The electronic apparatus of claim 14, wherein in a closed position the first body is adjacent the second body and one of the engagement protrusions extends into the recess.

16. The electronic apparatus of claim 13, wherein the recess is formed with a latching protrusion that engages with either one of the engagement protrusions.

17. The electronic apparatus of claim 13, wherein a through-hole is formed on said one side portion of the first body, wherein a casing having a seating groove therein is installed in the through-hole and the passage hole is in the casing.

18. The electronic apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a pressure member seated in the seating groove and having a seating surface on one side thereof determining one side of the passage hole, and a resilient member coupled to another side of the pressure member.

19. The electronic apparatus of claim 13, wherein the engagement catch comprises:

a catching step configured to protrude vertically from one side of the keeper with an inclined surface; and

a press portion configured to protrude horizontally from the other side of the engagement catch.

20. The electronic apparatus of claim 13, wherein the electronic apparatus is a tablet computer or a notebook computer.

21. The electronic apparatus of claim 13, wherein in a closed position the first body is adjacent the second body and one of the engagement protrusions extends into the recess, wherein the latch has a pair of catching protrusions on lateral edges of the frame, wherein front and rear ends of an upper surface of the passage hole are configured to have inclined surfaces, respectively, and wherein the catching protrusion of the latch is adjacent one of the inclined surfaces when the latch is fixed.

22. A method of latching a portable computer having a first body rotatably coupled to one side of a main body, wherein the first body has a first surface adjacent to the main body in a first closed position and an opposite surface adjacent to the main body in a second closed position of the portable computer, the method comprising:

providing a bi-directional latch in a through hole of the first body to latch the first body to the main body in the closed positions;

releasing an engagement catch of the main body from a first engagement protrusion of the bi-directional latch in the first closed position;

pressing the first engagement protrusion to position a second engagement protrusion of the bi-directional latch; and

moving the first body to the second closed position to latch the second engagement protrusion in the engagement catch.

23. A method of latching a portable computer having a first body rotatably coupled to one side of a main body, wherein the first body has a first surface adjacent to the main body in a first closed position and an opposite surface adjacent to the main body in a second closed position of the portable computer, the method comprising:

providing a bi-directional latch in the first body to latch the first body to the main body in the closed positions;

releasing an engagement catch of the main body from a first engagement protrusion of the bi-directional latch in the first closed position;

moving the first body to the second closed position; and

pressing the first engagement protrusion to latch a second engagement protrusion of the bi-directional latch in the engagement catch, wherein the first and second engagement protrusions extend from opposite sides of the first body.

24. An electronic apparatus, comprising:
a first body formed with a passage hole extending through one side portion;
latching means for latching mounted in the passage hole of the first body
having a frame with a pair of engagement protrusions that protrude on opposite sides in first
and second positions, respectively;
a second body rotatably coupled to the first body and having a recess on one
surface thereof; and
engaging means for engaging the latching means mounted in the recess of the
second body.

25. The electronic apparatus of claim 24, wherein in a closed position the first
body is adjacent the second body and one of the engagement protrusions extends into the
recess.

26. A method of latching a portable computer having a first body rotatably
coupled to one side of a main body, wherein the first body has a first surface adjacent to the
main body in a first closed position and an opposite surface adjacent to the main body in a
second closed position of the portable computer, the method comprising:
providing a through hole in the first body;
providing a latch in the through hole of the first body; and
latching the latch to fix the first body to the main body in the closed positions.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the main body has a display surface and the first body has an input device.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the first body has at least one display surface and the main body has a keyboard.

29. A portable computer having a first body rotatably coupled to one side of a main body, wherein the first body has a first surface adjacent to the main body in a first closed position of the portable computer and an opposite surface adjacent to the main body in a second closed position, the portable computer, comprising:

a latch in the passage hole of the first body configured with first and second engagement protrusions that protrude on opposite sides of the first body in first and second positions, respectively; and

an engagement catch in the recess of the main body configured to engage the latch in the closed positions.

30. The portable computer of claim 29, wherein the latch has a pair of catching protrusions on lateral edges of a frame, wherein front and rear ends of an upper surface of the passage hole are configured to have inclined surfaces, respectively, and wherein the catching protrusion of the latch is adjacent one of the inclined surfaces when the latch is in the first and second positions.